



June 1, 2010

The Honorable Roger Berliner  
Member, Montgomery County Council  
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Councilmember Berliner:

Thank you for calling me regarding your constituents' serious concerns with respect to the retaining wall on the new Cabin John Middle School property.

I appreciate that the need for the retaining wall and the height of the wall were an unwelcome surprise to the community and that the surrounding community is upset by this development. Addressing the need for a larger school than originally had been anticipated, for additional parking, and other required facilities has become challenging. It is in that context that a retaining wall of some sort will be required.

I have instructed my team to work with the community to explore alternatives, including a smaller wall, a tiered wall, and other options that are consistent with the aesthetics of the surrounding neighborhood. There may be design elements and other modifications that can be explored that would minimize the impact of the wall on the adjacent neighbors. I will direct my team to immediately meet again with the community to explore these possibilities.

Thank you again for your personal intervention on behalf of your constituents on this Montgomery County Public Schools issue. I will keep you apprised of our efforts to find common ground.

Respectfully,

Jerry D. Weast, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

JDW:spm